

REMARKS

The pending claims are directed to a package containing a condom together with a novel combination of agents which possess antiviral activity, which are otherwise compatible with the functional requirements of the condom, and which function to enhance the antiviral potential of the active antiviral agent.

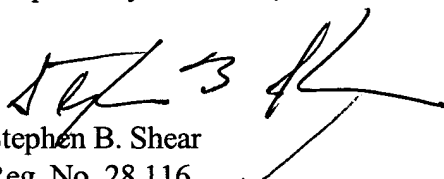
Applicants have previously discussed the Larsen and Stoner references. Those discussions are incorporated herein by reference and will not be repeated here. Ueno, which is newly cited, is directed to the use of hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof as condom lubricants. What is notable about this assortment of references is that the specific combination now claimed by applicants is nowhere suggested. Rather, the Examiner appears to have simply assembled an unrelated collection of references which have in common only a single thread—within the myriad of agents listed in each reference is an agent found in the unique combination of cooperating agents claimed by applicants. Applicants submit that this is on its face an impermissibly constructed combination of references. As described in applicants' specification (page 3), there are specific properties that materials packaged with condoms must possess, or else shelf life is adversely affected. The fact that some of the materials suggested by Larsen would, when combined with materials suggested by Stoner and Ueno, be compatible for suitable shelf life periods with packaged condoms is simply not found in the cited art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, and that pending claims 11 and 12 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' claims are directed to a novel combination of uniquely cooperating agents, which in combination with a condom, can provide significant antiviral benefits. None of the references cited against the application suggested the novel claimed combination. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn and pending claims 11 and 12 allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,


Stephen B. Shear
Reg. No. 28,116
Attorney for Applicant

ARMKEL LLC
c/o Church & Dwight Co., Inc.
469 North Harrison Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 497-7415